

News of the World, at 7:30 P.M. over WRC (Washington) and the
NBC Network:

MORGAN BEATTY: "Tonight in the headlines--two American tourists may have uncovered Russia's deepest spy secret. Last free word from Venitza, the secret city within a city--it's a model American town to train cadres for American espionage or take-over. Russia's refused any word of the vanished men. Soviet espionage losses may be trapped between the devil and the deep blue sea...

"And the news tonight, exclusive with News of the World, is the most fantastic spy story on record, all about the model American town, operated by the Russian Soviet espionage system. The story begins with two American tourists who were caught presumably taking photographs near the western Soviet border. The Department reports four inquiries about the two men by our Embassy, one of them by Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson himself, all unanswered. One of the men is Harvey C. Bennett, of Bath, Maine, age 26, post-graduate language student who has been trying to make up his mind whether to become a teacher or a foreign service officer. He speaks Russian. The other man is Mark Kaminsky, same age, Cass County, Michigan, who was to have started teaching, presumably the Russian language, because he knows it well, at Purdue University this fall.

"On his application to visit Russia, Bennett reported he was going for education. Kaminsky, that he wanted to study and visit relatives. Now the exclusive part of the story, and a possible answer to how these young chaps might have run afoul of suspicious Russian police.

"For years, intelligence agents have been hearing about a town within a city in Soviet Russia, in the Ukraine, and I have touched on it before now. The barbed wire and high fence hides a complete model American town, and it is in the city of Venitza, or it was until late 1959. The last word from our two American tourists before they got into trouble came from--yes--Venitza. Bennett wrote Mrs. Bennett that they had had car trouble, but would soon cross the border westward. The next word came from other American tourists early in September--Kaminsky was at a border station. He told an American acquaintance that he was in trouble. Since then--nothing.

"The Russian anxiety to accuse Americans of spying may have caught them in a strait. They may well have captured two innocent Americans, who unwittingly would expose the Russian plans for a long-distance future take-over of the United States. Let me explain. In 1959, a Swedish Army officer, Major Peer Lindgren, set himself to the task of separating fact from fiction about the model American town in Russia. In an article in the Swedish military journal named 'Contact with the Army,' the Major made an exposure that startled all intelligence agencies, because it indicated the Russians have deep, long-range plans for taking over major countries of the world, and one of these plans centered in Venitza. The Major pieced together various intelligence reports, and came up with this statement: everything within the town of Venitza is pure American--the bar serves American drinks, the restaurant American food, the movies are Hollywood made and the stores sell everything from ready-made clothes to chewing gum. Fords and Chevroleets drive through the streets, blue jazz notes blare from the cocktail lounge, and mingle with the juke box bebop in the drug store. And all the dialects of the United States are taught and spoken to the young Russians who inhabit this town within a city.

"They order a hamburger and a Coke just like people do in Waterloo, Iowa, or McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Major Lindgren reported that the town has one thousand inhabitants, all in training to know everything American intimately, so they may be used for spies or for the cadres, who ultimately might try to take over our country.